

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
WACO DIVISION**

# **FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

Plaintiff WSOU Investments, LLC d/b/a Brazos Licensing and Development (“Brazos” or “Plaintiff”), by and through its attorneys, files this First Amended Complaint (“Amended Complaint” or “Complaint”) for Patent Infringement against Dell Technologies Inc., Dell Inc., and EMC Corporation (collectively, “Defendants”) and alleges:

## **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

1. This is a civil action for patent infringement arising under the Patent Laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. §§ 1, et seq., including §§ 271, 281, 284, and 285.

## THE PARTIES

2. Brazos is a limited liability corporation organized and existing under the laws of Delaware, with its principal place of business at 605 Austin Avenue, Suite 6, Waco, Texas 76701.

3. On information and belief, defendant Dell Technologies Inc. is a Delaware corporation with a principal place of business at One Dell Way, Round Rock, Texas 78682.

4. On information and belief, defendant Dell Inc. is a Delaware corporation with a principal place of business at One Dell Way, Round Rock, Texas 78682. Dell Inc. is wholly owned by its corporate parent, Dell Technologies Inc.

5. On information and belief, defendant EMC Corporation is a Massachusetts corporation with a principal place of business at One Dell Way, Round Rock, Texas 78682. EMC Corporation is wholly owned by its corporate parent, Dell Technologies Inc.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

6. This is an action for patent infringement which arises under the Patent Laws of the United States, in particular, 35 U.S.C. §§ 271, 281, 284, and 285.

7. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

8. This Court has specific and general personal jurisdiction over each defendant pursuant to due process and/or the Texas Long Arm Statute, because each defendant has committed acts giving rise to this action within Texas and within this judicial district. The Court's exercise of jurisdiction over each defendant would not offend traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice because each defendant has established minimum contacts with the forum. For example, on information and belief, each defendant has committed acts of infringement in this judicial district, by among other things, selling and offering for sale products that infringe the asserted patent, directly or through intermediaries, as alleged herein.

9. Venue in the Western District of Texas is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and/or 1400(b). Each defendant has established places of business in the Western District of Texas. Each defendant is registered to do business in Texas. Upon information and belief, each defendant has transacted business in this District and has committed acts of infringement in this District.

**COUNT ONE - INFRINGEMENT OF**  
**U.S. PATENT NO. 7,453,888**

10. Brazos re-alleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

11. On November 18, 2008, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued U.S. Patent No. 7,453,888 (“the ‘888 Patent”), entitled “Stackable Virtual Local Area Network Provisioning in Bridged Networks.” A true and correct copy of the ‘888 Patent is attached as Exhibit A to this Complaint.

12. Brazos is the owner of all rights, title, and interest in and to the ‘888 Patent, including the right to assert all causes of action arising under the ‘888 Patent and the right to any remedies for the infringement of the ‘888 Patent.

13. Defendants make, use, sell, offer for sale, import, and/or distribute in the United States, including within this judicial district, products such as, but not limited to, networking switches, including but not limited to, Force 10 MXL switches (collectively, the “Accused Products”).

14. The Accused Products may be deployed in environments with Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) applications and virtualization hosts and can provide VLAN double tagging, frame extensions for VLAN tagging, and native VLAN features, among other features. Force 10 MXL switches, for example, may enhance bandwidth and performance, as well as provide

flexibility to satisfy changing demands of data centers embracing virtualization, network convergence, and other I/O-intensive applications or workloads.

<b>VLAN</b>
802.1Q VLAN Tagging, Double VLAN Tagging, GVRP
802.3ac Frame Extensions for VLAN Tagging
Force10 PVST+
Native VLAN
<b>Data center bridging</b>
IEEE 802.1Qbb Priority-Based Flow Control (PFC)
IEEE 802.1Qaz Enhanced Transmission Selection (ETS)
Data Center Bridging eXchange (DCBx)
DCBx Application TLV (iSCSI, FCoE)
<b>Fibre channel</b>
NPIV Proxy Gateway (NPG)
Fibre Channel port types : N
Bridging to FC SAN
Up to 8 FCoE_Maps per switch
<b>FC/ FCoE</b>
INCITS FC-BB-5 Ver 2.00 (FSB, NPIV & F-Port parts only).
Fibre Channel Generic Services
(FC-GS, FC-GS2, GC-GS3)

[https://i.dell.com/sites/csdocuments/Shared-Content\\_data-Sheets/Documents/en/SS804\\_Dell\\_Force10\\_MXL.pdf](https://i.dell.com/sites/csdocuments/Shared-Content_data-Sheets/Documents/en/SS804_Dell_Force10_MXL.pdf)

15. The Accused Products may configure a trunk port so that a numbered tag is inserted in each ethernet frame to keep the traffic of different VLANs from mixing. Accused Products running Per-VLAN Spanning Tree (PVST) configure their trunk ports appropriately.

## Trunk Port Downlink Configuration

Trunk ports can participate in multiple VLANs over one Ethernet interface and are often used for connection to virtualization hosts and other VLAN aware applications. To keep the traffic of the different VLANs from mixing, a numbered tag is inserted in each Ethernet frame (with the optional exception of the interface's "native" VLAN). To deploy a trunk port on an MXL running PVST follow these four steps.

[http://bladesmadesimple.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Deploying\\_the\\_Dell\\_Force10\\_MXL\\_on\\_a\\_Cisco\\_Nexus\\_Network\\_v1\\_1.pdf](http://bladesmadesimple.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Deploying_the_Dell_Force10_MXL_on_a_Cisco_Nexus_Network_v1_1.pdf)

### Configure Tagged VLANs for a Trunk Port Interface

```
MXL2#configure
MXL2(conf)#interface vlan 11
MXL2(conf-if-vl-11)#tagged tengigabitethernet 0/1
MXL2(conf-if-vl-11)#no shutdown
MXL2(conf-if-vl-11)#exit
MXL2(conf)#interface vlan 12
MXL2(conf-if-vl-12)#tagged tengigabitethernet 0/1
MXL2(conf-if-vl-12)#no shutdown
MXL2(conf-if-vl-12)#exit
MXL2(conf)#exit
MXL2#
```

[http://bladesmadesimple.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Deploying\\_the\\_Dell\\_Force10\\_MXL\\_on\\_a\\_Cisco\\_Nexus\\_Network\\_v1\\_1.pdf](http://bladesmadesimple.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Deploying_the_Dell_Force10_MXL_on_a_Cisco_Nexus_Network_v1_1.pdf)

16. Trunk ports in the accused products can participate in multiple VLANs over an ethernet interface carrying multiple tagged VLANs and/or a single untagged VLAN.

The “portmode hybrid” command allows an Ethernet interface to carry both multiple tagged VLANs and a single untagged (also called a native) VLAN. If a given port is only expected to carry tagged VLANs or a single untagged VLAN, the “portmode hybrid” command may be omitted from its configuration.

[http://bladesmadesimple.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Deploying\\_the\\_Dell\\_Force10\\_MXL\\_on\\_a\\_Cisco\\_Nexus\\_Network\\_v1\\_1.pdf](http://bladesmadesimple.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Deploying_the_Dell_Force10_MXL_on_a_Cisco_Nexus_Network_v1_1.pdf)

17. The Accused Products may configure all the trunk ports participating in VLANs when the port is in a standby state. The configured trunk port may be enabled to begin forwarding traffic as soon as its link is active.

The “switchport” setting enables a switch’s Ethernet interface to participate in VLANs. A switchport enabled interface is referred to as a layer-2 interface. (Note: If the Ethernet interface had previously been configured as a layer-3 interface—which is one with an IP address directly configured on it—than the “no ip address” command would need to be run on the interface before the switchport feature could be enabled.)

The “portmode hybrid” command allows an Ethernet interface to carry both multiple tagged VLANs and a single untagged (also called a native) VLAN. If a given port is only expected to carry tagged VLANs or a single untagged VLAN, the “portmode hybrid” command may be omitted from its configuration.

The “spanning-tree pvst edge-port” command should only be run on ports that will connect to servers or other end nodes and never on ports that will connect to other switches. This command designates a port as an expected edge of the spanning tree (only switches participate in spanning tree) and enables it to begin forwarding traffic as soon as its link is active (many seconds before the spanning-tree protocol would otherwise allow it to forward traffic).

With the switchport feature enabled, the Ethernet interface is now ready for one or more tagged VLANs to be configured for it.

[http://bladesmadesimple.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Deploying\\_the\\_Dell\\_Force10\\_MXL\\_on\\_a\\_Cisco\\_Nexus\\_Network\\_v1\\_1.pdf](http://bladesmadesimple.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Deploying_the_Dell_Force10_MXL_on_a_Cisco_Nexus_Network_v1_1.pdf)

18. In view of preceding paragraphs, each and every element of at least claim 1 of the ‘888 Patent is found in the Accused Products. And upon information and belief, each and every element of at least claim 1 of the ‘888 Patent is performed or practiced by Defendants at least through Defendants’ own use and configuration of its own Accused Products, and/or through

Defendants' own testing and configuration of its own Accused Products, and/or through Defendants' providing services for its Accused Products, including but not limited to providing installation, deployment, support, and configuration of its Accused Products.

19. Defendants continue to directly infringe at least one claim of the '888 Patent, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, by making, using, selling, offering for sale, importing, and/or distributing the Accused Products in the United States, including within this judicial district, without the authority of Brazos.

20. In May 2020, Plaintiff filed a suit against Defendants asserting infringement of the same patent and by the same accused products that are asserted in this case. Plaintiff dismissed the prior suit before filing this suit. As a result of the prior suit, Defendants had notice and actual or constructive knowledge of their infringement of the patent-in-suit since at least May 2020, before the filing of this case. Further, Defendants had knowledge of their infringement of the patent-in-suit before the filing of this Amended Complaint.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Dell filed a motion to dismiss that is mooted by this amended complaint. Dell's motion cites a WDTX case (which relies authority from the District of Delaware) for the proposition that knowledge of a plaintiff's patent after the lawsuit was filed is insufficient to plead the requisite knowledge for indirect infringement. *See Aguirre v. Powerchute Sports, LLC*, No. SA-10-CV-0702 XR, 2011 WL 2471299, at \*3 (W.D. Tex. June 17, 2011) (citing *Xpoint Techs. v. Microsoft Corp.*, 730 F.Supp.2d 349 (D. Del. 2010)). Several Delaware courts have since rejected this rule because there is no statutory basis to support it and because there is no purpose served by the formality of requiring the plaintiff to file an amended complaint in order to be allowed to assert knowledge of the patents during the period following the filing of the original complaint. *See Walker Digital, LLC v. Facebook, Inc.*, 852 F. Supp. 2d 559, 566 (D. Del. 2012) ("The court acknowledges that this result is inconsistent with its prior decisions in *Xpoint Techs. v. Microsoft Corp.*, 730 F.Supp.2d 349 (D.Del.2010), and *EON Corp. IP Holdings LLC v. FLO TV Inc.*, 802 F.Supp.2d 527 (D. Del. 2011). Given the ease of amendment, the limitation of damages to post-knowledge conduct, and in the interests of judicial economy, the court finds that the better reasoning is to allow a complaint that satisfies Rule 8 to proceed to discovery rather than dismissing it for lack of pre-filing knowledge when, by the time the motion to dismiss has been filed, defendant in fact has the requisite knowledge as pled by plaintiff."); *see also IOENGINE, LLC v. PayPal Holdings, Inc.*, CV 18-452-WCB, 2019 WL 330515, at \*4 (D. Del. Jan. 25, 2019) ("The Court sees no purpose that would be served by the formality of requiring IOENGINE to file

21. Since at least May 2020, through its actions, Defendants have actively induced product makers, distributors, retailers, and/or end users of the Accused Products to infringe the ‘888 Patent throughout the United States, including within this judicial district, by, among other things, advertising and promoting the use of the Accused Products in various websites, including providing and disseminating product descriptions, operating manuals, and other instructions on how to implement and configure the Accused Products. Examples of such advertising, promoting, and/or instructing include the documents at:

- [http://bladesmadesimple.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Deploying\\_the\\_Dell\\_Force10\\_MXL\\_on\\_a\\_Cisco\\_Nexus\\_Network\\_v1\\_1.pdf](http://bladesmadesimple.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Deploying_the_Dell_Force10_MXL_on_a_Cisco_Nexus_Network_v1_1.pdf)
- [https://i.dell.com/sites/csdocuments/Shared-Content\\_data-Sheets/Documents/en/SS804\\_Dell\\_Force10\\_MXL.pdf](https://i.dell.com/sites/csdocuments/Shared-Content_data-Sheets/Documents/en/SS804_Dell_Force10_MXL.pdf)

22. Since at least May 2020, through its actions, Defendants have contributed to the infringement of the ‘888 Patent by having others sell, offer for sale, or use the Accused Products throughout the United States, including within this judicial district, with knowledge that the Accused Products infringe the ‘888 Patent. The Accused Products are especially made or adapted for infringing the ‘888 Patent and have no substantial non-infringing use. For example, in view of the preceding paragraphs, the Accused Products contain functionality which is material to at least one claim of the ‘888 Patent.

**JURY DEMAND**

Brazos hereby demands a jury on all issues so triable.

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an amended complaint in order to be allowed to assert knowledge of the patents during the period following the filing of the original complaint.”).

## **REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Brazos respectfully requests that the Court:

- (A) Enter judgment that Defendants infringe one or more claims of the ‘888 Patent literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents;
- (B) Enter judgment that Defendants have induced infringement and continue to induce infringement of one or more claims of the ‘888 Patent;
- (C) Enter judgment that Defendants have contributed to and continue to contribute to the infringement of one or more claims of the ‘888 Patent;
- (D) Award Brazos damages, to be paid by Defendants in an amount adequate to compensate Brazos for such damages, together with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest for the infringement by Defendants of the ‘888 Patent through the date such judgment is entered in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 284, and increase such award by up to three times the amount found or assessed in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- (E) Declare this case exceptional pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285; and
- (F) Award Brazos its costs, disbursements, attorneys’ fees, and such further and additional relief as is deemed appropriate by this Court.

Dated: October 19, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ James L. Etheridge

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